

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 17, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Present:** Chris Kozaites, President  
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President  
Bea Antenore  
Raymond Chavarria  
Simon George  
William Marmion  
Drew Satariano

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer  
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau  
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau  
Janet Day-Anselmo, Manager, Business Operations Bureau  
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau  
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Superintendent, Community Recreation Programs  
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger  
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

**Guests:** David Candiff, Long Beach Organic  
Christy Stiles, CSULB  
Sarah Serviss  
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks  
Amy Bodek, City of Long Beach  
Ann Cantrell, Los Cerritos Wetlands, Friends of Spring/Willow  
Ray Pok, 7<sup>th</sup> City Council District Office  
Jeidi Marin, Long Beach Organic

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2005**

**It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the January 20, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

**III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – DIANE LEWIS**

Diane Lewis said that Sammy has been with her for a long time, because she wanted to make sure that Sammy experienced the commute between Southern and Central California, logging about 6,289 miles with her. Ms. Lewis said that Sammy visited her husband in the hospital on Christmas Day. Ms. Lewis announced that she would present the Sammy Award to Chrissy Marshall at her home.

**IV. EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATION FOR FEBRUARY**

President Kozaites stated that Vice President Saltzgaver would announce the Employee of the Month.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Jose Martinez as the February Field/Operations Employee of the Month, from the Community Enrichment Programs Bureau.

Ms. Dixie Swift said that Mr. Martinez works at Homeland at MacArthur Park, where he grew up. He covers the Graf program, the urban gallery, the silkscreen tee shirt program, and also runs a breaker and pop-rocker program that services about 200 people, ages 7 to 35. She said that people come from all over the world to look at their programs and he is able to run these programs with no problems and with great respect.

**V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS**

**#05-0201**

**PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL**

President Kozaites stated that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month and thanked staff for the quarterly report.

**#05-0202**

**BULLPENS FOR PLAZA LITTLE LEAGUE**

Mr. Hester said that this item came in at the last minute because the Plaza Little League is requesting to enclose their warm-up area for safety reasons. He said that they would like to do this at their own expense, to protect the kids, and would like to finish it by their opening day on March 5.

Vice President Saltzgaver said that he is concerned about access and security of this area. He said that sometimes people leave their dogs in enclosed areas for a dog run, but that it would be nice to be available for other teams. Mr. Hester responded that staff would work closely with the league to make sure there were no problems and that the bullpen would be available for other teams.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve completion of the bullpen project by Plaza Little League. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

### **A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met and discussed a few items and picked a date for the park tour, February 25, which he confirmed with everyone.

#### **1) Park Tour – February 25**

Mr. Hester stated that Geoff Hall put together the itinerary.

Mr. Hall distributed a revised itinerary and map. He said that Mr. Eschen requested some of the RiverLink parcels be added. Mr. Hall stated that the day would be divided into two sessions and they would be stopping for lunch at Skylinks in the new clubhouse. He said that the bus would be driving by most of the sites but they would be making a few stops.

Commissioner Marmion stated the he hoped they would be stopping at the sports park site. Mr. Hall responded that the bus would be driving around the site, but there was no place to really stop at the site.

Mr. Hall mentioned that they would also like to look at the Boy Scout camp that is being proposed for a land swap.

Mr. Hester stated that the tour would leave at 10:00 a.m. from the administration building.

### **B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE** Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the financial statement was included in the packet. He said that they have been working on the fee waiver policy for the last few months and would probably bring it before the Commission at the March 20 meeting. He said that they are also looking at a discount for Long Beach residents, relative to tennis.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee did not meet and the monthly reports were included in the packet. He said that the Department is continuing to fill the park ranger positions.

Mr. Hester stated that there have been problems in the North Long Beach area by Houghton Park, possibly flowing out of Jordan High School. He said that the rangers have been called to work closely with the Police Department to try and get it under control.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that they met this morning and the quarterly report was included in the packet. He said that Department staff attends 30 neighborhood association meetings each month and they discuss additional issues and concerns, which should be incorporated into the report.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE  
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

1) UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Vice President Saltzgaver thanked the Commissioners who attended the various universally accessible playground meetings. He thanked Geoff Hall who did an excellent job putting the meetings together. He stated that attendance was pretty poor at the meetings, but the people who did show up had very good comments. They discussed a number of options and the summary report was included in the packet. He stated that the top two sites turned out to be El Dorado Park West and Stearns Champions Park. He said there were recommendations for a number of potential sites such as Admiral Kidd Park, but the Parks and Recreation Commission is not ready to make a recommendation to the City Council yet because the Council also requested funding mechanisms for these playgrounds. He stated that they want to give staff a chance to try to identify funding sources before it is brought back to the City Council.

President Kozaites commended Geoff Hall, Dennis Eschen, and Sharon Gates for their work on these meetings. He requested that staff pass on thanks to the two audio-visual staff also.

Commissioner Antenore stated that night meetings don't seem to appeal to many people in the city. She said that there was good attendance for the Saturday meeting.

Commissioner Satariano stated that it is not quite as easy for parents of physically challenged kids to come to any meeting. He said he was moved by those who did attend the Saturday meeting and were very interested in the playgrounds.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to continue consideration of Universally Accessible Playgrounds to the March meeting for final action. The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Chavarria asked if there would be additional meetings held. Mr. Eschen stated there would be an additional Capital Improvements Committee meeting and the Citizens Advisory Council on Disabilities.

Mr. Hester stated that staff would do additional presentations at some neighborhood association meetings.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee met and they discuss the usage of the different parks and buildings. She said that there would be a committee set up to look into the joint use contract with LBUSD.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2005

Commissioner Marmion asked if the after school programs, mentioned on page 7, were also held on school holidays? Mr. Hester responded that unfortunately no, after school programs are only held on school days.

Commissioner Antenore asked if youth sports groups are cooperating in turning field lights off, since the light fees are waived for them. Mr. Hester responded that most are cooperating, but the waiver of light fees may have to be discussed again in the next budget year.

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the outreach efforts are so much more than what is listed, on page 12, and that issues would be included in the quarterly report.

Commissioner Satariano asked if January was a record month in removing debris from the beach?

Mr. Shippey responded that there was a substantial amount of debris on the beach from the record rainstorm in December and the Department would exceed record totals this year. The amount of debris removed from the beach in January was fairly standard for this time of the year. He said that it would, however, take a lot longer to remove all the debris from the beach because there is more of it. Mr. Shippey stated that there are 3 million pounds of debris on the beach and the Department has only so many trucks and staff who can only move off approximately 80 tons of debris a week. He stated that piling up the debris lets it dry out and there would be less sand in it when it is hauled to the dump, which means fewer pounds that the City is charged for.

Commissioner Marmion stated that the date for the opening of Rotary Centennial Park was not mentioned and wondered what the date was. Mr. Hester responded that the Rotarian's ceremony would be on March 9.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he attended the tile mural dedication at the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Department was never mentioned during the ceremony. He stated that that staff should make sure that the Department's roles are known for future ceremonies.

Mr. Hester responded that he was sure it was an oversight, that the Aquarium has been very good with the Department.

Vice President Saltzgaver requested advance notice on large special events and filmings and requested that staff warn the community also. Mr. Hester responded that the Special Events and Filming Bureau requires that film crews notify surrounding neighborhoods on special events.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that the City notify drivers of road closures from special events or filmings or look at the placement of the road closures. Mr. Hester responded that the Police Department and Public Works determine road closures for special events and filmings. He said that Mr. Ashman was aware of the problems with the road closures at the latest filming and would convey that to the appropriate departments.

## **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION AND PARADE – SUMMER HANSEN**

Ms. Summer Hansen stated that she was here to request the waiver of fees for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Day Celebration and Parade, which would take place on May 1. She said that the kickoff would be held at the Kaleidoscope at CSULB and mentioned the various connected events held by LBUSD and other organizations in support of Children's Day.

Mr. Hester stated that Ms. Hansen needs to give the Department a request in writing and then he can waive the fees for this event. He said that he would have Special Events staff contact her to help her with the permit.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. LONG BEACH SPORTS PARK 2004 RE-CIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that they reviewed this in the CIP Committee and did due diligence with Mr. Eschen. He said that the CIP Committee concurs with the recommendation.

Commissioner Marmion congratulated Mr. Eschen on his report and he supports this as being for the greater good of the city.

Mr. Hester stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is asking to review and come in on the EIR, not being asked to endorse the project, the design of the project, etc. He clarified that the Commission is recommending the comments related to the EIR.

President Kozaites stated that he wants to do what they can to get this project pushed along because it has been discussed for a long time.

Ms. Ann Cantrell said that she was glad that Mr. Hester clarified what the Commission is approving, which is the draft EIR. She said that the comments from the public were due on Monday and there were many people who had comments on the draft. She said that now all those comments have to be addressed by the Planning Department and then there will be a final EIR that comes out.

Ms. Cantrell agrees that the 700 trees that will be planted is a wonderful thing for this area; however, right now there are full-grown mature trees there. What's going to be planted will take years to achieve what is there now. Seven hundred small saplings do not create habitat for the birds that are there. She said that the main concern that she has is the mitigation that is required for the threatened Loggerhead Shrike, of which there are only five nesting pairs in all of Los Angeles County, as reported in 2003. She said that the mitigation would be to plant some native plants along the property line and hope that the Shrikes would take advantage of the 25-foot wide native plant area and then forage in the cemetery. Again, Kimble Garrett, the ornithologist of the Natural History

Museum, said that Shrikes cannot take advantage of manicured lawns, like there is at the cemetery. They live off insects and small reptiles and this would probably be the end of them, along with the 45 other species of birds that live here. She said that she agrees that youth need recreational fields and she is glad to hear that they are making some effort with LBUSD and the available fields. She said that years ago if you had done this and a lot of the schools had not torn up their fields and put in asphalt, there would be enough fields in the city for every child. This is not for children, this is for paying adults, and nowhere in this EIR does she find anything that says a study has been made as to how many adult teams would be willing to pay to come and use this facility, when they can use the facilities that are already in the city.

President Kozaites clarified that the adult leagues that are in Long Beach currently use youth sports fields, like El Dorado Little League and Plaza Little League, and they occupy a lot of time that the youth really need. If we can get the adults out of there into their own facility, it frees up the existing fields for the youth to have more time. We have a lot more youth in Long Beach than we used to.

Ms. Cantrell said "if" we can get them, and how much is it going to cost?

Vice President Saltzgaver said point of order, we are discussing the Parks and Recreation Commission's comments about the draft EIR and approval of the comments. We are not here to debate the facility itself and with all due respect, Ms. Cantrell has already talked to this issue for about five minutes. He said that he would like to move forward with the meeting.

Ms. Cantrell left a copy of her comments on the draft EIR with the Commission.

Mr. Eschen stated that the Planning Commission is the body that hears the comments on the EIR and makes the decision whether the EIR is adequate. The Parks and Recreation Commission's comments are, just like Ms. Cantrell's comments, going to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Jeidi Marin stated that she just became the E.D. at Long Beach Organic and was previously with the City of Anaheim for 15 years in environmental restoration. She said that you have to honor the past to imagine the future. She feels that it is very sad that an area that had the artesian waters that created Long Beach and was the largest oil field in the world for decades since 1922, that there wasn't an integration of this concept with the history of the area. If you look at this area on a map, it is a big pink area and is the heart of Long Beach. She said that they went through the EIR and submitted an eight page letter and their biggest concern is historical justice, environmental justice, economic justice, recreational and food justice. She said that she went to the Sports Park in Chino Hills and it is cheap. She thought it would look like a reproduction of a stadium, but it is made cheap. She distributed a picture of a food counter and a child. She said that she thought it was against the law to



have children near beer. She asked if we would generate revenue through DUIs. In the part of town it is being built, the demographics of the area, are they getting justice? Are they going to be able to afford a \$4 slice of pizza? Everything on the menu is junk. She suggested going back to a sustainable plan for Long Beach, which is part of the Strategic Plan 2010. That is what they used to make comments on the EIR. The things on that Strategic Plan are not being considered in this plan to date. She said that the EIR was incredibly difficult to get. She couldn't get into the link half the time and the document was too huge. When she asked for it at City Hall she was told that she had to order it and wait. She said that other cities just hand you their EIR. She said that there are 359 acres in this city. Why can't someone get creative and have adult sports situations in the available 359 acres of flat land? She said that sports and alcohol is not a good message.

Mr. David Candiff, the President of Long Beach Organic, said that he also spoke at the last Commission meeting. He stated that he also met with Dennis Eschen. He said that Big League Dreams has been in the news lately in Ventura County to build a sports park in Oxnard. According to the Ventura Star, it has caused a major upset of citizens the way they have conducted it. A citizens group has met for 18 months to address the need for sports parks there and put a lot of time and attention into it. They just found out in January that it has all been ignored and the City Manager had signed off on a \$440,000 deal with Big League Dreams to proceed on a particular site in College Park in Ventura. They had a deluge in City Council calling for the firing of the Mayor and staff. The citizens wanted a park but thought that the place that the City Manager decided was the wrong place.

Ms. Summer Hansen wanted to say something against drinking at the site. She didn't think it should be mixed with sports.

President Kozaites stated that the issue doesn't really relate to what the Parks and Recreation Commission is discussing today.

Ms. Hansen said that she visited the site and was amazed. It feels like you are in the mountains. There is no place in Long Beach where you are in a valley with hills. There are cattails there. She thinks that wonderful things could be done with the land that would be more natural.

Ms. Jeidi Marin asked if it could be inclusive of the community and not exclusive. To her it is a white person's park.

Vice President Saltzgaver said that for the last decade there have been smokescreens and dust thrown up over the whole issue talking about the beer and the developer. Absolutely none of this stuff has to do with the EIR that has been worked on for the last decade. The delaying tactics that we have seen over the last decade and a half are just unconscionable to him. It is our job to go for the greater good and this project is something that has been in the works

from the time that kids who were in the fifth grade then are now adults. The fact that we have someone who has come in from Anaheim and take a picture of a kid in a bar and act like that has something to do with the EIR is frankly an insult to this Commission's intelligence. We are talking about an EIR of development and all we are doing here is offering our comments on that EIR. It is time that we move forward with it.

**It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to recommend:**

- **The certification of the 2004 Re-Circulated Draft EIR for the Long Beach Sports Park, and**
- **The adoption of findings of overriding consideration stressing the importance of the availability of individual and team sports facilities to the positive social future of the youth of the City and the availability of adult team sports facilities to the positive health of the adults of the community.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **XI. COMMENTS**

### **A. AUDIENCE**

There were no comments from the audience.

### **B. STAFF**

Ms. Diane Lewis passed out information about upcoming activities.

### **C. COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Chavarria said that the NCCJ breakfast would be Thursday, February 25, at 6:30 a.m., at the Convention Center. They have over 900 people attending.

Commissioner Antenore asked where Cinco de Mayo would be held this year. Commissioner Chavarria responded that they are finalizing the site today.

Commissioner Antenore stated that the new Farmers Market would be held behind the Health Department and it would open on April 7, at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Marmion said that the Miller Foundation appreciated getting copies of the Annual Report from the Commission on Youth and Children and they are going to make major use of it.

Commissioner Marmion said that he found out that Dixie Swift is going to retire in May. He wondered if at the April meeting, if it would not be precedent setting, that the Commission might have some kind of recognition for her.

Commissioner Marmion requested that he be excused from the March 17, 2005 meeting, as he would be out of state.

Commissioner Antenore requested that she also be excused from the March 17, 2005 meeting, as she would be out of town attending a conference.

Commissioner Chavarria stated that Betty Brown passed away and requested that the Commission meeting be adjourned in her memory. She was a previous Department employee.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m. in memory of Betty Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black  
Executive Secretary  
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine